

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01731 230918Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----230921Z 002949 /13

O 230829Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4444  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1731

EXDIS

LUSAKA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SU, US, SO  
SUBJECT: US-SOMALI AND US-SUDAN RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 1567

SUMMARY: ACCORDING MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG, SAID BARRE  
RELUCTANT MOVE RAPIDLY AWAY FROM SOVIETS BECAUSE HE  
DOUBTS USG CAN RESPOND ADEQUATELY TO HIS FELT  
NEED PROVIDE EQUIVALENT SUPPORT. BELIEVE SUDAN LEADERS  
WILL WISH DISCUSS US-SOMALI RELATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR  
YOUNG. THEY PROBABLY ALSO WOULD LIKE FIRMER EXPRESSION  
USG POLITICAL SUPPORT, AND YOUNG VISIT MAY BE  
APPROPRIATE TIME TO ADVISE SUDANESE THAT WE ATTACHING  
GREATER IMPORTANCE TO SUDAN IN CONTEXT REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. BRIEFED MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S  
ARMS SALES POLICY STATEMENT SUNDAY MAY 22 AND FOLLOWING  
MY PRESENTATION HE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TELL ME OF HIS  
MEETING FEW DAYS BEFORE WITH SIAD BARRE. MEETING  
HAD TO BE CUT SHORT SO WE BOTH COULD LEAVE ATTEND  
NIMEIRI'S INAUGURATION HILTON HOTEL, BUT DENG HAD  
TIME MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. RECALLING MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR BREWER MAY 6 REGARDING POSSIBLE REASONS BEHIND SAID BARRE'S FAILURE MEET WITH AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN (REFTEL), DENG SAID HE DISCUSSED US-SOMALI RELATIONS WITH GSDR LEADER. THIS WAS DONE DURING MEETING IN WHICH DENG CONTINUED SUDANESE EFFORTS EXPLAIN CONCERN HERE OVER SOVIET SUPPORT FOR LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA AND WIDER ARAB CONCERN OVER SOVIET DESIGNS IN AFRICA.

3. DENG SAID SAID BARRE ALSO CONCERNED OVER SOVIET ACTIVITIES AND HE COULD APPRECIATE SUDANESE/ARAB VIEWS. HOWEVER, HE UNWILLING DROP SOVIETS WITHOUT ASSURANCE OTHERS WILL PROVIDE EQUIVALENT ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA. ACCORDING DENG, SAID BARRE SAID TO HIM, IF ALL US CAN DO FOR SUDAN IS PROVIDE FEW C-130S AFTER LENGTHS TO WHICH SUDANGOV HAS GONE TO SHOW FRIENDSHIP FOR US, THEN WHAT CAN SOMALIA EXPECT. IN SHORT, SAID BARRE SEES USG SO RELUCTANT MAKE MEANINGFUL MOVE TOWARD GSDR HE HESITANT MOVE TOO FAST AWAY FROM SOVIETS.

4. DENG SAID HE EXPLAINED USG NEED OF CAUTION FOLLOWING VIETNAM EXPERIENCE. HE ALSO EXPLAINED CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH MUST BE OBSERVED IN US WHICH, PERFORCE, SLOW ANY US RESPONSE. HE ALSO ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH SUDAN SEEKING US ARMS, IT NOT LIMITING ITSELF TO THIS ONE SOURCE. FYI THIS POINT BEING MADE PUBLICLY BY TOP SUDANGOV LEADERS. END FYI.

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DENG ADDED HE FEARS SAID BARRE MAY MOVE AGAINST ETHIOPIA IN NEAR FUTURE SINCE SOMALIA PRESENTLY STRONG MILITARILY BUT AS TIME GOES BY SOVIETS WILL STRENGTHEN ETHIOPIANS AND SOMALI RELATIVE ADVANTAGE WILL DIMINISH.

5. COMMENT: TIME DID NOT PERMIT ME TO RESPOND AT ALL TO DENG'S REMARKS, BUT BELIEVE HE MAY WISH DISCUSS US ATTITUDE TOWARD SOMALIA FURTHER. NO DOUBT THIS SUBJECT WILL ARISE DURING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT HERE. PROBABLY WOULD BE HELPFUL HAVE TALKING POINTS WHICH AMBASSADOR YOUNG COULD USE, IF HE DOES NOT HAVE THEM ALREADY.

6. DENG IS WELL AWARE OF LIMITATIONS ON USG IN REPLACING SOVIETS AS PRINCIPAL ARMS SUPPLIERS TO SOMALIA. HOWEVER, HE MADE POINT, WHICH OTHER SUDANESE OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO MADE RECENTLY, THAT WITH SOVIETS BEHIND SUDAN'S TWO PRINCIPAL ANTAGONISTS, THIOPIA AND

LIBYA, ONLY WAY SUDANGOV CAN MEET THIS THREAT IS WITH EQUIVALENT SUPPORT FROM SOMEONE ELSE. WHILE SUDANGOV WILL SEEK SUPPORT FROM EUROPEANS, WEALTHY ARAB AND CHINESE, IT CLEARLY WILL WANT MORE EXPLICIT AND PERHAPS MORE PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM USG AS WELL. WHILE SUDANESE LEADERSHIP WOULD BE PLEASED SEE GREATER US SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT FOR THEM OF COURSE IS TO BE ASSURED OF US SUPPORT FOR SUDAN ITSELF.

7. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE SUDANGOV DESIRE FOR POSITIVE US RESPONSE TO ITS OVERTURES OVER LAST YEAR NOT NEW. MOREOVER, NIMEIRI AND OTHERS MADE CLEAR TO AMBASSADOR BREWER AT TIME HIS DEPARTURE THEIR GENERAL SATISFACTION CURRENT STATE US-SUDAN RELATIONS. HOWEVER, I THINK THEY DO FEEL SOMEWHAT EXPOSED AFTER THEIR EXPULSION SOVIETS AND AS SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA HAS GAINED MOMENTUM. FOR VARIOUS  
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PRACTICAL REASONS, WE HAVE HAD TO BE SLOW OR LIMITED IN RESPONDING TO SUDANESE REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, USG HAS, IN FACT, DECIDED ATTACH GREATER IMPORTANCE TO SUDAN AS REGIONAL SITUATION HAS EVOLVED OVER LAST SIX MONTHS OR SO. AS FAR AS I KNOW, WE HAVE NOT YET TOLD THIS TO SUDANGOV, AND I RECOGNIZE THERE MAY BE MANY REASONS NOT TO DO SO. HOWEVER, BELIEVE SUDANGOV WOULD BE COMFORTED BY QUIET EXPRESSION US POLITICAL SUPPORT IF IT COULD BE MADE NOW, AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH AUTHORIZE AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO DO SO DURING HIS VISIT HERE. IF THAT NOT POSSIBLE, PERHAPS I COULD DO SO IN NEAR FUTURE.

8. JUST PRIOR SENDING ABOVE WE RECEIVED STATE 117423 CONTAINING PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO NIMEIRI ON HIS REELECTION AND INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT. BELIEVE IT STRIKES JUST RIGHT TONE IN LIGHT ABOVE DISCUSSION. BOGOSIAN

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## Message Attributes

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